

# COLLABORATIVE ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

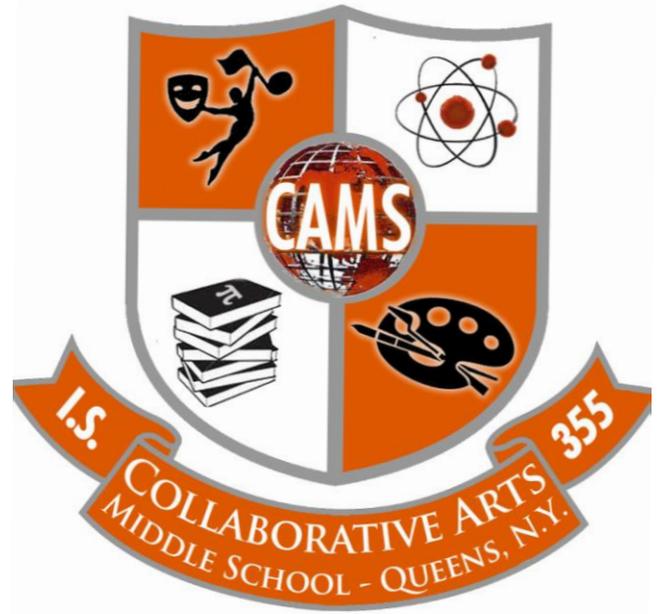
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## Sixth Grade Summer Reading Assignments

### Summer Reading List

*Reading is so fundamental to our development as intellectuals. To be a reader is to be among only 77% of Americans. It is a skill you must practice regularly as you will need it in middle school, high school, and beyond.*

*Below you will find your summer reading task. Please follow the directions carefully, do your best, and bring it in on the first day of school. It will be graded.*



#### **Peeled by Joan Bauer (Level O)**

In an upstate New York farming community, high school reporter Hildy Biddle investigates a series of strange occurrences at a house rumored to be haunted.

#### **Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli (Level W)**

The classic award-winning story about a young boy who finds himself when he escapes an unbearable situation is filled with humor and truth and features new artwork that will appeal to a new generation of readers.

#### **Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech (Level V)**

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up considerably during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

#### **Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis (Level T)**

Ten-year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned bandleader.

## The Task

Select **two** of the four novels listed above to read over the summer. All of the books share a common theme of change. Each character is affected by his or her community. As you read the books, think about how your community impacts the person you are becoming. **Keep notes** on the main character and how he or she changes throughout the plot (sequence of story events).

## The Product

Upon returning to school, this assignment will count as **your first two Humanities grades**. You will be responsible for answering the **essay** question for your first book and answering the **short response** questions for your second book. You are also expected to turn in the notes you take for **both** books. The included rubric will be used to grade all of the work that you submit.

### The Essay (in response to first book selection)

Community shapes our character much like setting affects the characters in the books we read. In a well-developed, **five paragraph essay** consider the way that the setting of the novels and the supporting characters help to develop and change the main characters. Compare this to an experience in your own life.

When writing your essay, be sure to include:

- An explanation of where the story takes place
- An analysis of how the people and setting affect and develop the main character
- A comparison to your own life
- Supporting details

### Short Response Questions (in response to second book selection)

1. Why did you select this book?
2. Did the book meet your expectations? Why or why not?
3. Give a summary of the book. Be sure to include details of the most important sections of the book.
4. Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not? Give at least two reasons to support your answer.
5. Which chapter do you think is the most important in the book? Why? What does it add to the novel?
6. If you were to turn this book into a movie or play, what would you change? Why?

### Grading Criteria: **1** (far below grade level standards)-**4** (exceeds grade level standards)

**Ideas:** The writing is clear, stays on topic, and only important details are included.

**Organization:** The introduction is entertaining. The sentences and paragraphs are in a clear order. The conclusion ends the essay.

**Word Choice:** The words create a picture for the reader with words that describe.

**Voice:** The writing suits the **reader**.

**Conventions:** The writing has little errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Sentence Fluency:** The writing has well-written sentences of different lengths.

**Presentation:** The writing is neat and easy to read.